

EUROPEAN UNION
Delegation of the European Commission to the USA

The European Union Early Warning and Response System (EWRS)

Great Lakes Border Health Initiative
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The legal basis



Communicable diseases and threats to public health

- Article 152 of the Treaty
- Decision 2119/98/EC of the European Parliament and the Council (24 September 1998)
 - Addresses need for **co-ordinated action and sharing of information among MS and Commission**
 - *'setting up a network for the epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases in the Community'*



Pillars of the Community Network

<u>Surveillance</u>	<u>Communication</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Epidemiological surveillance of communicable diseases and special health issues■ Structures doing epidemiological surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Permanent lines of communication between Commission and public health authorities in Member States on measures which may be required to protect public health.



Establishment of the EWRS

- Commission Decision **2000/57/EC** (22 December 1999) on the early warning and response system for the prevention and control of communicable diseases

Defines 'events' and 'procedures'



Events to be reported within the EWRS:

- **Outbreaks** extending to **more than one Member State**.
- Spatial or temporal **clustering** of cases.. if there is a **risk of propagation** between Member States.
- Spatial or temporal **clustering** of cases ... **outside the Community**, if there is risk of propagation to EU.
- The appearance or resurgence of a communicable disease or an infectious agent which **may require timely coordinated Community action** to contain it.

CRITERIA (One "YES" is enough to indicate the need of reporting to EWRS)		YES	NO or NOT KNOWN
A - Potential for international spread			
A1. Are there factors related to the agent, host or environment that should alert us to the potential for international spread? (1)			
A2. Is the source known <u>or suspected</u> to be a food product or any other goods that has been imported from or exported to other Countries? (2)			
A3. Have epidemiologically-linked cases of the same disease been detected/reported recently in another country/ies?			
B - Unexpectedness			
B1. Is the disease or agent unknown?			
B2. Is the event caused by a disease/agent that had already been eliminated or eradicated of the country? (3)			
B3. Is the event known <u>or suspected</u> to be the result of an intentional or accidental release of biological agent? (4)			
C. Is there any other reason for the event to have an intrinsic Community-relevant impact?			
<i>Auxiliary arguments for your judgement, when answering this question, are listed below.</i>			
a. Are applied countermeasures less effective than expected?			
b. Have similar events in the past resulted in Community spread of the disease? (5)			
c. Has the event reached an important size or impact? (6)			
d. Does the event show any feature unusual for the disease? (7)			
e. Are there any concurrent factors that may potentiate the event or hinder or delay the response? (8)			
f. Are the available resources for this event insufficient to detect, investigate or control it? (9)			
g. Is any vulnerable population group at higher risk? (10)			
h. Are there multiple foci in the country?			
i. Have cases been reported amongst health service staff?			
j. Has the event attracted <u>or is likely to attract</u> a high degree of international media or political attention?			

EWRS agreed checklist on operative criteria for the identification of events to be reported to EWRS




Procedures for cooperation in EWRS

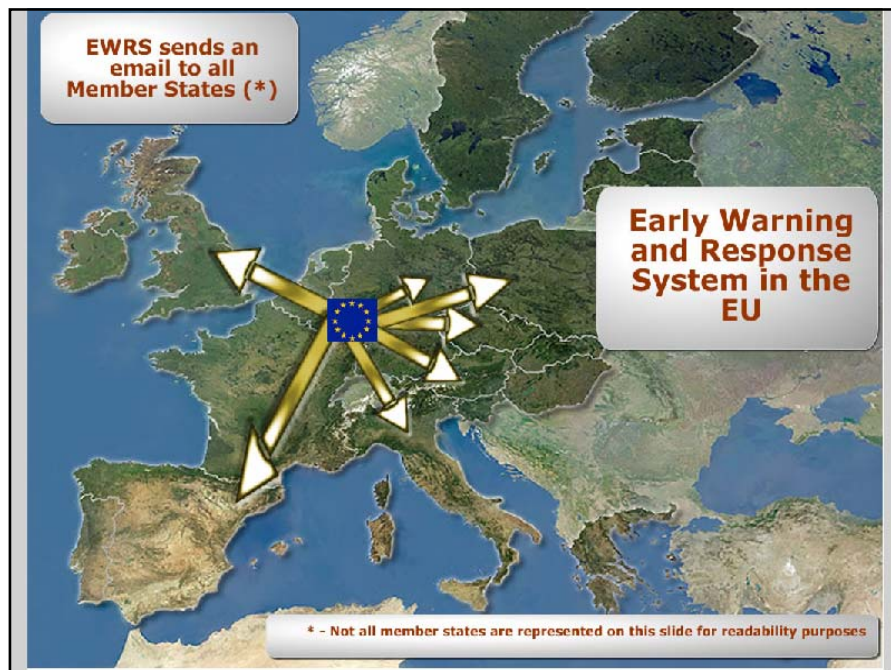
- **Activation level 1: information exchange**
 - If an event is likely
 - Authorities shall assess situation in cooperation
- **Activation level 2: potential threat**
 - Verification, technical cooperation
 - Precautionary measures
- **Activation level 3: definite threat**

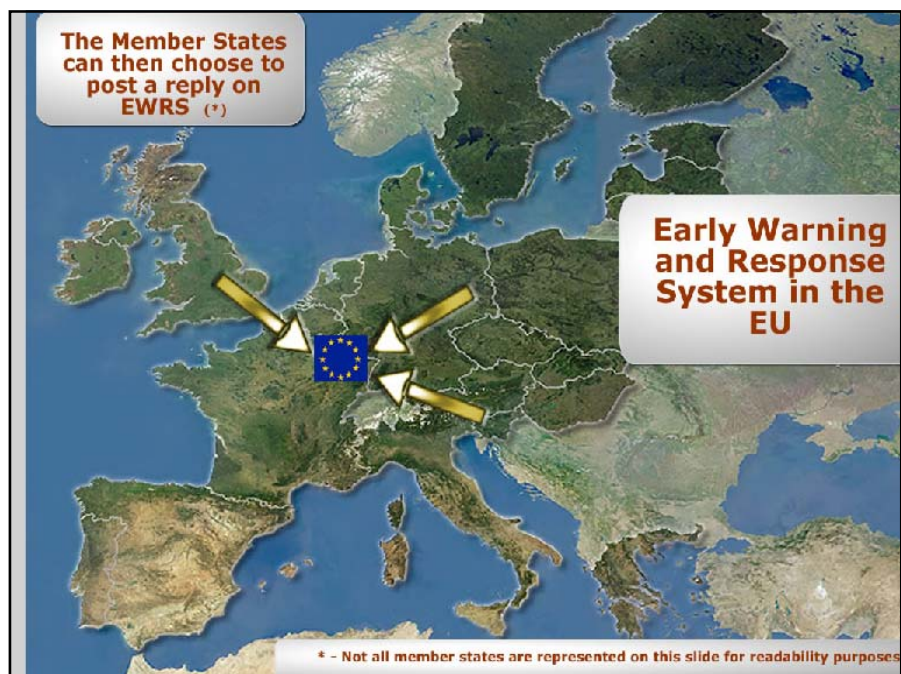
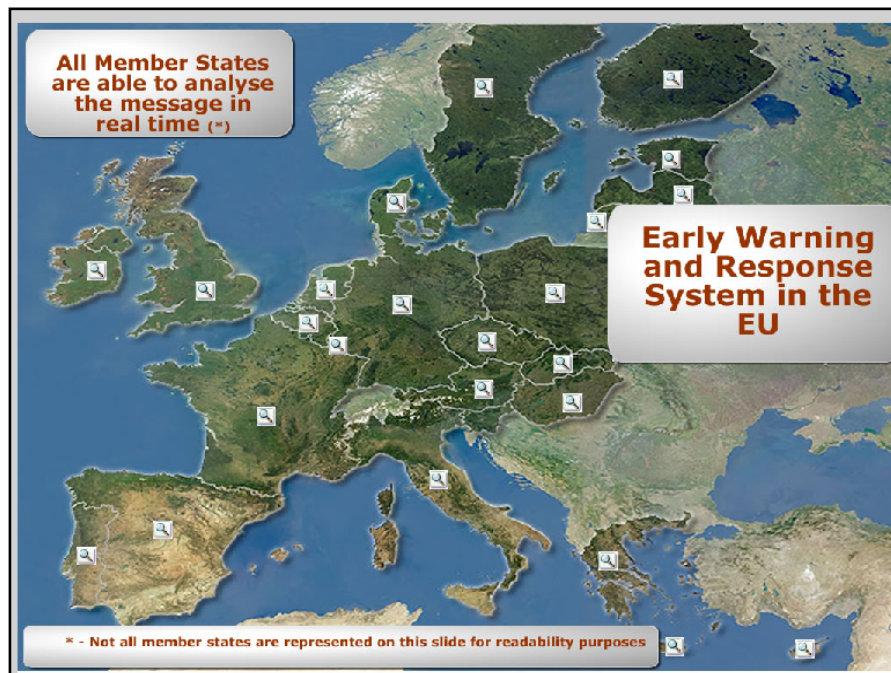
Without delay ...


 - Inform on intended measures and progress
 - Coordinate at Community level



The screenshot shows the EWRS (Early Warning and Response System) website. The header includes the title "Early warning and response system" and a brief description of the network's purpose. The left sidebar contains navigation links for "Open Section", "Secure Section", "Events", "Meetings", "References", "User Directory", "Access MedISys", "SANCO CIRCA site", "24h/7d contacts", and "Admin Tools". The main content area is divided into a "Restricted Area" for public health authorities and an "Open Area" for general information. The "Restricted Area" includes a login link for public health authorities. The "Open Area" lists various resources such as European Projects, National European Public Health Bulletins, and International Bulletins.







today: 23 November 2004 16:50

Open Section

[Home](#)

[Open links](#)

[Public Health Web Sites](#)

Secure Section

[\[Logout\]](#) [\[Help\]](#)

Events

[communicate on new event](#)

[List of Events](#)

[Search Events](#)

[Archives](#)

Meetings (+)

References (+)

User Directory (+)

Access MedSys

SANCO CIRCA site

24h/7d contacts

Admin Tools (+)

Statistics (+)

EWRS version 4.5g

Last Update on 15 Nov 2004

You are logged in as: [SANCO](#)

Show Messages / page (50 total messages) [Create a New M](#)

Order by: ☒ Last comment date - ☐ Event creation date ☐ last follow up date

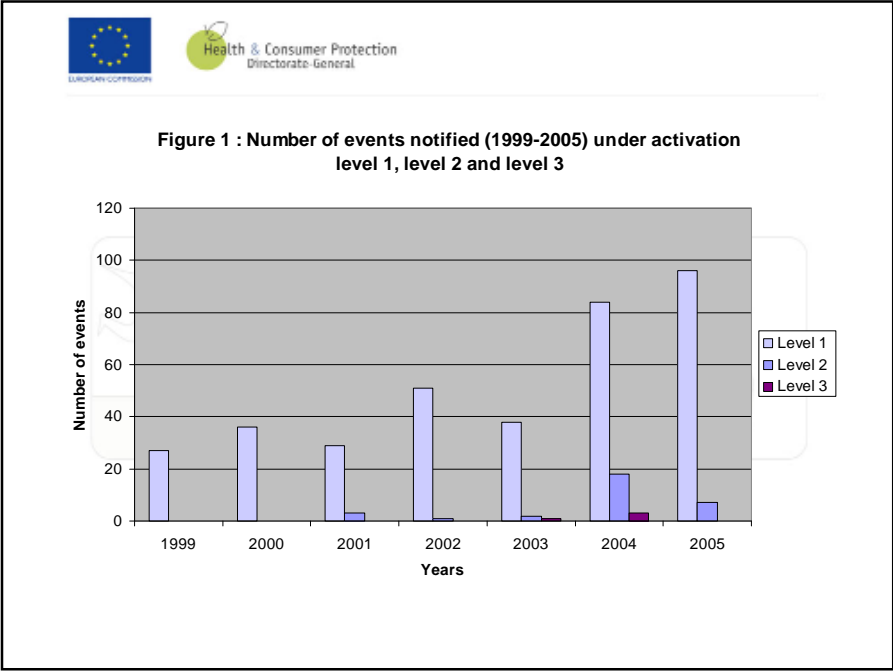
Message ID Show all diseases Show all locations

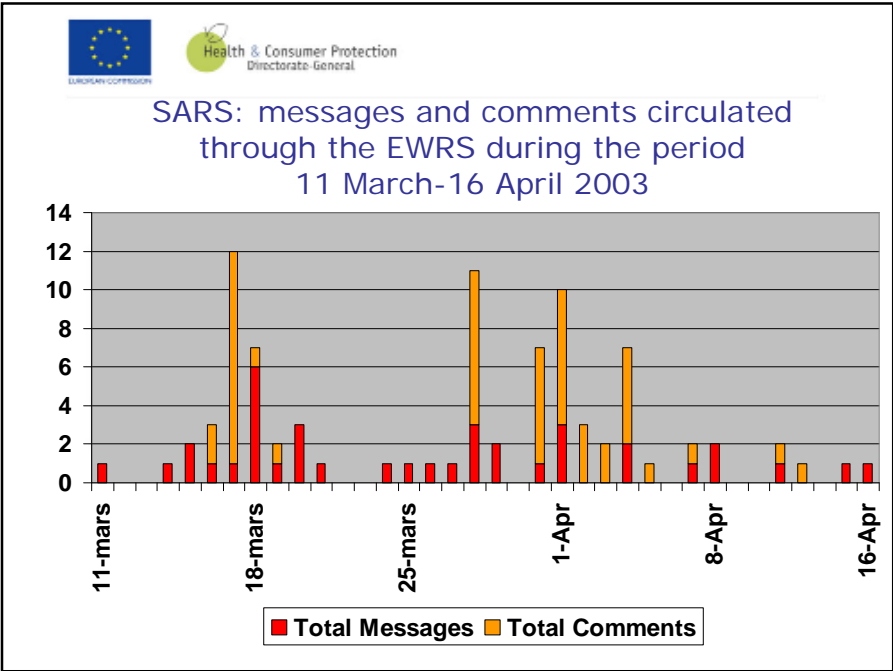
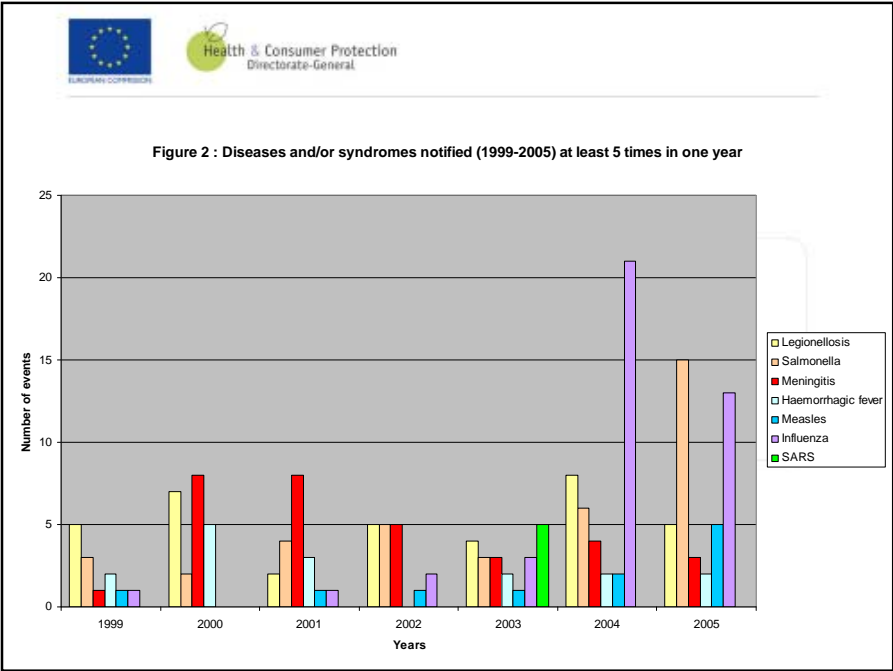
	Comment chain		Num comments
20041115IE0001	vCJD	Transmissible spongiform encephalopathie ...	Ireland
Created: 15/11/2004 at 12:25			
20041024BE0001	Influenza	Influenza virus	Belgium
Created: 24/10/2004 at 11:39			
Avian influenza			
EC * AT * FR * NL * IT * DE * AT * LV * AT * AT * IE * OR * BE * AT * NL * LV * AT * SI * SK * LV * SK * LV			
20041105FI0001	Anthrax		Finland
Created: 05/11/2004 at 12:46			
20041026LT0001	Acute diarrhea	Unknown	Lithuania
Created: 26/10/2004 at 15:33			
EE * LV * LV			
20041029PL0001	Dengue fever	Dengue virus	Poland
Created: 29/10/2004 at 18:14			
20041029ES0001	Unlisted	Yellow fever virus	Spain
Created: 29/10/2004 at 13:42			
Fatal case potentially associa ...			
20041028EC0001	Unlisted		Not Applicable
Created: 28/10/2004 at 12:54			
URGENT - EMBARGO until 15:00 (...			
EC * EC			
20041014UK0001	Salmonellosis	Salmonella spp.	United Kingdom
Created: 14/10/2004 at 13:52			
UK * ES			
20041022FR0001	vCJD	Transmissible spongiform encephalopathie ...	France
Created: 22/10/2004 at 13:33			
20040917LV0001	Acute diarrhea	Unknown	Latvia
Created: 17/09/2004 at 11:29			
LV * EE * LV			

[Download CSV version of threat listing](#)

Legend:

☐ Active Follow-up [Follow-up](#) [New Follow-up](#) [Follow-up Old Follow-up](#) [Comments](#)







Relevant events triggering co-ordination mechanism at EU level during 2004

(Events: 105)*

- Two legionellosis outbreaks in cruise ships
- First human case of H5N1 in Vietnam
- Two events linked to West Nile virus
- Rabid dog illegally introduced in the EU
- Hepatitis A cases in an Egyptian resort
- Birds of prey illegally introduced in the EU (H5N1 infected)
- SARS incidents (3)

* REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: On the operation of the Early Warning and Response Systems (EWRS) of the Community Network for the epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases during years 2004 and 2005 (Decision 2000/57/EC)
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2007/com2007_0121en01.pdf



Relevant events triggering co-ordination mechanism at EU level during 2005

(Events: 103)*

- H5N1 in Russia, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine
- Marburg in Angola
- A/H2N2 in proficiency testing

* REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: On the operation of the Early Warning and Response Systems (EWRS) of the Community Network for the epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases during years 2004 and 2005 (Decision 2000/57/EC)
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2007/com2007_0121en01.pdf



European Centre for Disease Control

Founded by Regulation 851/2004
(based on Article 152 of the Treaty)

- Established in 2005 as an EU agency in Stockholm, Sweden.
- ECDC's mission is to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases.
- Functions mainly as an information hub.



European Centre for Disease Control

- Provides advice and 24/7 support to Commission and Member States
- Will fully take over operation of the EWRS towards end 2007
- Weekly (global) epidemic intelligence report
- Close collaboration with CDC, Atlanta and other agencies
- Staff exchange with CDC planned



Other Rapid Alert Systems in EU

- RASFF - Food and feed contamination
- EUROPHYT - Network for pests + plant disease
- ADNS - Animal disease notification system
- SHIFT - Health controls on imports of veterinary concern
- TRACES - Animal transportation
- RAPEX - Consumer products
- Pharmaceuticals (managed by EMEA)
- BICHAT - Biological + chemical Agent Attack, bioterrorism
- ECURIE - Radiological emergency
- MIC - Monitoring and information centre for civil protection
- LEN – Law enforcement network
- CIWIN - Critical infrastructure warning information network



ARGUS is the new umbrella

- Member States have primacy in the response to an emergency
- EU arrangements need to respect national and Community competences
- Consistency and coherence in the actions of Member States and of EU Institutions are essential
- The Commission may be called upon to act in its own area of competence and to support the efforts of Member States
- The ARGUS system links the Commission's existing and future rapid alert systems and to optimise crisis management



Sources of Information

Commission Web Site

http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

Detail on EWRS

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/com/early_warning_en.htm

European Centre for Disease Control

<http://www.ecdc.eu.int/>

Eurosurveillance – monthly publication

<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/>

Or contact:

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